(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the role being played by the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) In Gujarat, all the eligible 12,393 primary schools including those in tribal areas have been covered by the Operation Blackboard. 1697 upper primary schools in tribal areas of the State have also been covered under the scheme.

Under Non-Formal Education (NFE)Progamme, 200 NFE Centres are being run by the State Government in the districts of Ahmedabad, Surat and Rajkot. 1280 centres are being run by 14 valuntary agencies in 7 districts of Gujarat.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes in Gujarat has increased from 21.14% in 1981 to 36.45% in 1991. The State Government is responsible for implementing adult literacy programmes with the assistance of the central government.

Newsitem on Exploitation of Girl Students in Universities

2200. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards a newsitem published in the "Nav Bharat Times" dated the 20th December, 1996 captioned, "Vishwa Vidyalaya Ki 90 Feesadi Chhatrayen Youn Shoshan Ki Shikar";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter to punish the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Introduction of Mumbai-Uttar Pradesh/ Bihar Bound Superfast Trains

2201. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the action being taken to introduce two U.P./Bihar bound superfast trains from Mumbai and the time by which the trains are likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): At present, there is no proposal to introduce any superfast train between Mumbai and U.P./Bihar.

However, for the convenience of Bihar bound passengers, it has been decided to extend 5017/5018 Kurla-Muzaffarpur Express to Darbhanga on one more day during 1997-98.

Racket in reservation in Punjab

2202. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket has been going on in the matter of reservation in trains particularly in Punjab where the train conductors extract Rs. 10 from every passenger and orally allot them seats without issuing any receipt thereof;

(b) the number of times sudden raids were conducted to curb this racket in Punjab during the last six months; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?